

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A water-borne urethane resin composition for forming a microporous layer, comprising (1) a water-borne urethane resin having a heat-sensitive coagulation temperature of 40 to 90°C and (2) an ~~associated~~ associative type thickener,

wherein said water-borne urethane resin (1) comprises (A) a polyoxyalkylene glycol comprising at least 50% by weight or more of a repeating unit of ethylene oxide and/or (B) a polyoxyalkylene glycol monoalkylether, a polyoxyalkylene glycol component of said polyoxyalkylene glycol monoalkylether comprising at least 50% by weight or more of a repeating unit of ethylene oxide, and

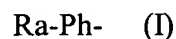
said associative type thickener (2) has a hydrophobic group located at at least one terminal and also has a urethane bond in its molecular chain.

Claim 2 (Original): A water-borne urethane resin composition for forming a microporous layer as claimed in claim 1, wherein said water-borne urethane resin (1) is a urethane resin having a softening temperature of 120 to 240°C.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A water-borne urethane resin composition for forming a microporous layer as claimed in claim 1, wherein said water-borne urethane resin (1) is a water-borne urethane resin ~~having~~ comprising an average particle diameter of 0.1 to 5 μm .

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A water-borne urethane resin composition for forming a microporous layer as claimed in claim 1, wherein said water-borne urethane resin composition further comprises a nonionic emulsifier having HLB of 10 to 18, wherein said water-borne urethane resin (1) is a water-borne urethane resin dispersed with a said nonionic emulsifier ~~having HLB of 10 to 18.~~

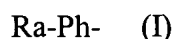
Claim 5 (Original): A water-borne urethane resin composition for forming a microporous layer as claimed in claim 4, wherein said nonionic emulsifier has a structure represented by the following structural formula (I):



wherein R is a C_1 to C_9 alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl group; a represents an integer of 1 to 3; and Ph represents a phenyl ring residue.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A water-borne urethane resin composition for forming a microporous layer as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~associated~~ associative type thickener (2) has a structure represented by the following structural formula (I):



wherein R is a C₁ to C₉ alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl group; a represents an integer of 1 to 3; and Ph represents a phenyl ring residue.

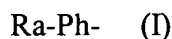
Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite, which comprises:

- (i) impregnating or coating a fibrous material substrate with
- (ii) a water-borne resin composition comprising (1) a water-borne urethane resin having a heat-sensitive coagulation temperature of 40 to 90°C and (2) an associated type thickener, and
- (iii) performing heat-sensitive coagulation with steam.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in claim 9, wherein said water-borne urethane resin is a water-borne urethane resin dispersed with a nonionic emulsifier having HLB of 10 to 18.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in claim 9, wherein said nonionic emulsifier has a structure represented by the following structural formula (I):



wherein R is a C₁ to C₉ alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl group; a represents an integer of 1 to 3; and Ph represents a phenyl ring residue.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in claim 9, wherein said associated type thickener is an associated type thickener which has a hydrophobic group located at at least one terminal and also has a urethane bond in a molecular chain.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in claim 9, wherein said water-borne urethane resin is a water-borne urethane resin which contains (A) a polyoxyalkylene glycol having at least 50% by weight or more of a repeating unit of ethylene oxide and/or (B) a one terminal polyoxyalkylene glycol having at least 50% by weight or more of a repeating unit of ethylene oxide.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in claim 9, wherein steam temperature is from 70 to 120°C.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in claim 9, wherein steam treatment time is from 10 seconds to 20 minutes.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in claim 9, which further comprises drying at a temperature of 80 to 150°C after heat-sensitive coagulation with steam.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): An artificial leather obtained by the method of claim 9.